

the mid-atlantic archivist

Volume 8 Number 1 January 1979

THE FUTURE OF MARAC
A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRWOMAN
by
BARBARA HEARN
WINTERTHUR MUSEUM

My impression of the "Whither MARAC?" sessions is that they were worthwhile and productive. I left Baltimore rejuvenated.

It was obvious to me that progressive reforms are in order. In the years MARAC has been active, our membership has doubled. New members bring new concerns. They also provide different experiences, fresh viewpoints, and divergent needs. Because of this, MARAC needs to reevaluate some of its positions. Though all who participated support the fundamental principles of informality and basic instruction, many agreed to a number of proposals designed to widen MARAC's level of awareness in local professional matters.

The three Baltimore sessions were well attended. The participants were eager to contribute. Mary Ann Bamberger, President of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), whose experiences parallel MARAC's, described MAC's past record and problems, and its hopes for the future. Bruce Ambacher presented a fine summary of the makeup and activities of other regionals in the United States and Canada. This triggered many members to offer suggestions from the floor regarding officers' duties, meeting sites, programs, publications, and members' responsibilities. Some of the best comments came from new members who told us why they joined MARAC and what they hoped to get from our association.

Our concerns gave rise to provocative questions: Shouldn't we clarify the procedure for selecting meeting sites? Are the content of programs and the format of the meetings up to our standards of proficiency? Is it the proper time to publish a professional journal? How can we reach small institutions within MARAC's area that need help? How can we influence good archival legislation? Shouldn't we encourage more interaction with state groups? It was spirited exchange that was mutually beneficial. In turn, our concerns led to possible solutions.

I have discussed one of these solutions with the other officers and members of the Steering Committee. I have also corresponded with Mary Boccaccio, a MARAC founder, all the past chairpersons, the newsletter editor, and several others. I have concluded and all agree we can best start by redefining the duties and responsibilities of the elected officials.

THE MEANING OF "DEPOSIT"

How a fifteen year old deposit agreement is interpreted by a New Jersey Superior Court will determine the future home of priceless letters and manuscripts of famous twentieth century literary figures.

In 1963 William Phillips, editor of the Partisan Review literary and political magazine since he founded it in 1934, joined the Rutgers University faculty and moved the journal there. The university agreed to house and subsidize the journal. Phillips, in turn, agreed to deposit the Review's records, files, and correspondence. In 1977, Phillips was mandatorily retired at age 70. Negotiations to keep the journal at the university were unsuccessful and Phillips reached an agreement with Boston University to move the journal there and donate the records and papers to that university's library.

Rutgers, maintaining that the papers belonged to its library, "secured" the files by changing the locks on the Review's office doors. They missed one lock. The next day university officials and police confronted Phillips and his staff while loading the files into a truck. All materials were returned to the building which was placed under armed guard. The papers at issue include letters and manuscripts by the likes of Jean-Paul Sartre, Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer, W.H. Auden, Philip Roth, George Orwell, and others.

Phillips has now filed suit seeking the return of the papers and damages for being treated in a manner "befitting a criminal guilty of some grave infraction of the law," and for being "subjected to severe indignities, insults and humiliations." Phillip's suit hinges on the meaning of "deposit." He maintains the materials were on deposit for as long as the Review remained at the university: "When you deposit something, you don't give it away. You don't expect a bank to keep the money you've deposited." Rutgers officials contend the deposit agreement means Phillips surrendered ownership of the materials.

Since university lawyers have instructed all university faculty and administrators not to speak about the case, this report is based on an article in the New Brunswick Star-Ledger by Robert J. Braun and an AP wire feature. Thomas Wilsted, Salvation Army Archivist, alerted us to the Braun story. Once this lawyer-enforced silence is lifted, we hope Ron Becker can provide a detailed report.

The mid-atlantic archivist is a quarterly publication of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). MARAC membership includes all interested individuals who live and work in the seven states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. MARAC seeks to promote the professional welfare of its members, effect cooperation among individuals concerned with the documentation of the human experience; the exchange of information between colleagues working in the immediate regional area; and to improve the professional competence of archivists, curators of textual, and audiovisual, and related special research collections, and records managers; and to encourage professional involvement of persons actively engaged in the preservation and use of all types of historical research materials. Individual membership dues are \$3.00 per annum. The dues year is from October 1 through September 30. Membership is not open to institutions, but institutions may purchase subscriptions to the mid-atlantic archivist for \$3.00 per annum. Write: Martha C. Slotten, MARAC Secretary, Library, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.



Items submitted for maa should be single-spaced, no indentation, in columns 4 1/2" wide, written on pica type, double-spaced between paragraphs. Send to: Donald F. Harrison, maa editor, National Archives (NNA), Washington, D.C. 20408, Phone: (202) 724-1080.

Editorial Staff:

Don Harrison, Editor
Bruce Ambacher, Associate Editor
Mary Boccacio
Mary Elizabeth Ruwell

FRIGHTENING FILE FACTS

Eighty-five to ninety percent of the documents in files are never used after filing.

It costs from \$35 to \$100 per year to rent the space occupied by one file cabinet, plus an additional \$150 to maintain that cabinet.

Twenty to twenty-five percent of "expensive filing space" is used to store such items as coffee urns, Christmas decorations, and blank forms.

Books and library resources spread throughout departments represent a volume exceeding the total holdings of a central business library by almost 300 %. Most of such resources are unindexed and uncataloged.

Time is the single most significant cost factor. The equivalent of one day per week for each clerk or secretary is devoted to filing activities.

from: Association Management
May 1978.

The MARAC Steering Committee met at 9:06 AM on Oct. 20, 1978, in conjunction with the fall conference held at the Lord Baltimore hotel. The group received the treasurer's report and the agenda for the business meeting. The Steering Committee will recommend that the 1980 spring meeting site be at Washington DC. Don Harrison has investigated hotels and the Crystal City Marriott seems to be the most viable choice. It was decided that the Mucci Manual will be sold to cover cost only selling for \$3.00 to non-members. The SAA may be a possible distributor. A press release but no manual will be sent to potential reviewers. Copyright identification must be stamped on verso of title page before any books can be distributed.

The regular business meeting was called to order by Barbara at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on October 20 at 4:15 PM.

The minutes of the previous meeting at Fredericksburg published in the subsequent newsletter were approved. Treasurer Peter Parker submitted a current monthly and an annual report appended below and accepted by the meeting. He promised to correct a bookkeeping error in the previous minutes. Barbara announced the members of the Future Meeting Sites committee to be temporarily chaired by Clark Beck with members Adele Newberger, Adele Lerner and Cathy Stover. The report of the membership committee submitted by Ruth Sternfeld was accepted and this special committee discharged with our thanks. Jim Sweeney as chairperson of local arrangements reported on plans for the spring meeting at the Holiday Inn Scope May 18 and 19, 1979 in Norfolk. Secretary Martha Slotten reported a total membership of 484 on Sept. 30, the last day of the membership year. 175 members joined or renewed as of Oct. 19. Don Harrison reported on negotiations with the Marriott Crystal City Motel for the spring, 1980 meeting near Washington. Barbara Hearn reported on the formation of a nominating committee with Frances Seeber and Barbara Hearn representing the steering committee members and Ellen Eriksen, Peter Silverman and Richard Cox were selected to represent the general membership. Doug Tanner reported for the Editorial Board announcing the forthcoming publication of Paul Mucci's manual on preservation, to be given free to members and sold for \$3.00 to others. He also reported that the committee was in the process of setting up publication standards.

The meeting was adjourned after a resounding vote of thanks to co-chairwomen Adele Newburger and Pat Vanorney and the other members of the Local Arrangements and Program Committee.

NEW YORK ARCHIVES CONFERENCE

The New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency (METRO) will sponsor an archives conference May 4, 1979. Topics include the nature and value of archives, functional analysis of archives, and archives in action: practical steps. A brief annotated bibliography or archival readings will be provided. For further information contact:

Michael A. Lutzker
Archives Program
New York University
19 University Place
New York, New York 10003

TREASURER'S REPORT

19 October 1978

Cash on hand, 16 September 1978
 Checking Account, Fidelity Bank, Philadelphi 721.78
 Savings Account, Fidelity Bank 3000.00

Income
 Memberships 78 @ 3.00 234.00
 Transfer from Savings 300.00
 Sales of Tee-shirts 8.00
542.00 4263.78

Disbursements
 Printing
 October Newsletter 129.00
 Mucci Book 522.35
651.35 (651.35)

Postage
 October Newsletter 13.02 (13.02)

Miscellaneous
 Steering Committee Travel 94.48
 Telephone 6.29
 Tee-shirts 234.90
335.67 (335.67)
(1000.04)

Checking Account Balance, 19 October 1978 263.74
 Savings Account Balance, 19 October 1978 2700.00
\$ 2963.74

Respectfully Submitted

Peter J. Parker
 Peter J. Parker
 Treasurer

YEAR-END STATEMENT for FY 1978

1 October 1777 - 30 September 1978

Cash on hand, 1 October 1977 3880.43

Income
 Memberships (336 @ 3.00) 1008.00
 Profit from Oglebay Park 76.02
 Sale of Tee-shirts 116.00
 Fredericksburg receipts 1725.00
2925.02 2925.02

Expenses by category '78 Budget*
 Printing 379.87 600.00
 Postage 352.79 105.00
 Travel 119.97 350.00
 Fredericksburg Conferenge 1845.71 0.00
 Mucci Book 156.00 0.00
 Miscellaneous 298.34 218.00
 Custer Award 0.00 100.00
3162.67 (3162.67)

Cash on Hand, 30 September 1978 \$ 3642.78

Respectfully Submitted

Peter J. Parker
 Peter J. Parker
 Treasurer

The Spring meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, Executive Towers, Norfolk (formerly known as the Holiday Inn, Scope) on Friday and Saturday, May 18-19. The hotel has reserved 150 rooms at a cost of \$32 a night double occupancy and \$26 for a single. There will be a \$4 charge for each additional adult in any room. Reservations must be confirmed by each MARAC member with the hotel by May 4, 1979, two weeks prior to the meeting. To insure meeting this deadline, a mail reservation card is included with this newsletter and another will be included with the program mailing in April. Please return only one to the hotel. The hotel has provided four meetings simultaneously. A Hospitality Suite will be available Thursday evening through Saturday noon.

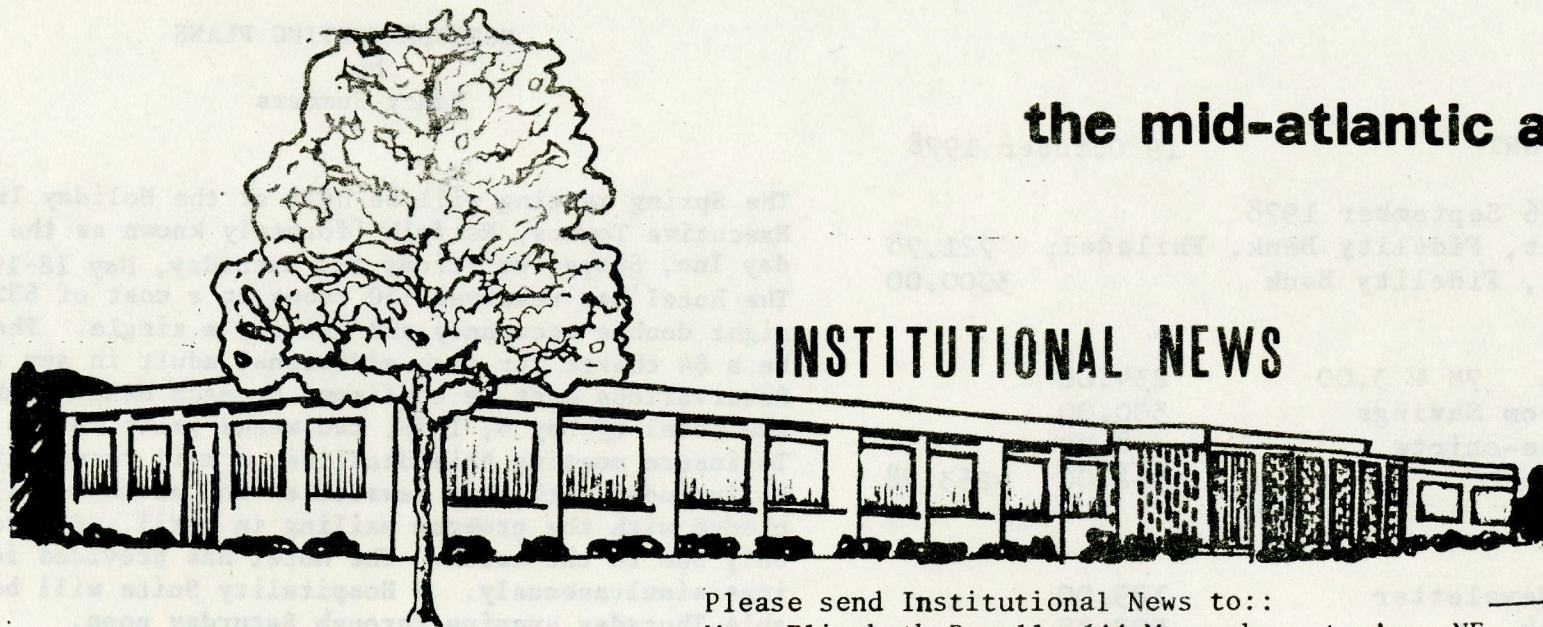
Speakers and tours promise to be interesting and diversified. Friday's luncheon speaker will be Ms. Marilyn Melchor of the Chrysler Museum. She will present a film entitled "The Norfolk Tour." All four proposals for tours had appeal and offered insight into Norfolk. Friday afternoon, members will be invited to visit the Chrysler Museum for a guided tour (50¢ per person). Or, members may elect to tour the MacArthur Memorial Museum (no charge). Both tours are from three to four o'clock. Friday evening there will be a dinner and dancing cruise on the Chesapeake Bay on the "Spirit of Norfolk" from seven to ten p.m. (\$12 per person). A tour of the Norfolk Navy Base will be held Saturday afternoon from two to five (\$2 per person). To insure meeting costs for a chartered bus, this tour must be prepaid. Sign up for this tour on the preregistration form. There will be a reception for all MARAC members Friday afternoon at the Chrysler Museum from four to five.

The many and varied sessions scheduled for Friday will provide a full and rewarding day. There will be sessions on museum archives, copyright law, religious archives, researchers as users, family historians, archival sampling, photocopy machines and their output, photograph restoration, physical security of records, administrative security of records, and university archives and alumni. Though the sessions will have an appeal for all levels of experience, we plan to offer four sessions focusing on basic skills: finding aids, non-manuscript materials, arrangement, and conservation. There will be a session on advanced conservation presented by the Barrow Restoration laboratories. The Virginia Oral History Association will present a session on "New Directions in Oral History" on Saturday morning. The association will have an organizational meeting that day.

Thursday evening will feature a steering committee meeting and time for special interest groups or others who wish to have a pre-conference meeting. To make arrangements contact Jim Sweeney or Jodi Kosti.

In addition to the four sessions Saturday morning -- oral history, religious archives, non-manuscript materials, and researchers as members, there will be a general membership meeting and brunch from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Barbara Hearn, outgoing chairperson, will introduce measures she has taken to heighten MARAC's awareness in local professional matters. Initial meetings of each state caucus, chaired by that state's representative, will be held from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. Time permitting, every MARAC member will have an opportunity to voice an opinion on concerns, and on ways to act upon them. IF YOU WANT TO BE HEARD, CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO GET ON THE AGENDA.

Prepare to come to Norfolk. This will be a meeting of change. Other regionals will be watching MARAC to see how we accept the challenge.



the mid-atlantic archivist

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Please send Institutional News to:
Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, 644 Massachusetts Ave, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002.

PEOPLE

Robert H. Bahmer, fourth Archivist of the United States, whose official portrait was recently presented to NARS in formal ceremonies recently, commented then on the biggest future problem confronting the National Archives:

"The onslaught of machine-readable records. There is no stopping their expansion."

MARAC's own William B. Miller of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia received the Sister Claude M. Lane Award during the SAA annual meeting in Nashville last November. Miller was cited for outstanding achievement in the area of religious archives. The Lane Award is funded by the Society of Southwest Archivists. Also recognized in the ceremony was Lynn E. May Jr., of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has hired Merle Chamberlain as assistant librarian to organize the archives on a part-time basis. The records include those of the museum, Philadelphia College of Art and Philadelphia College of Textiles.

EDWARD C. OETTING has recently assumed the duties of University Archivist at SUNY in Albany. He spent two years as Assistant Curator/Archivist at the University of North Dakota and was trained at the Wayne State University archival program.

The archival cradle has travelled from Jan Danis (son Thomas) to Ann and BOB COREN (son Evan). Spring booking is to MARY ANNE and JERRY WALLACE to be followed on June 1 by Mary Anne O'Boyle and BILL O'LEARY (second round with the cradle). There seems to be a certain repetitiveness of boys. Counting MAYGENE and Steve DANIELS' Eddie and the O'Boyle - Leary's Charlie, four of the last five occupants have been boys.

Reservations are now being accepted for late summer - fall, 1979.

ELIZABETH MOYNE married Don Homsey on November 25.

INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY AND ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Three MARAC area institutions -- The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region -- are co-sponsoring a Community and Oral History Workshop on March 17, 1979, at West Chester (Pa.) State College. The program includes sessions on oral history "source materials," interviewer training, funding strategies, and critiques of oral history in educational projects. For further information contact:

Carl Oblinger
Oral History Project
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

CONFERENCE ON BLACK HISTORY IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is sponsoring a conference on black history in Pennsylvania on April 5-6, 1979, at the Allegheny County Community College in Pittsburgh. The program includes sessions on early black education, black literature, the life and legacy of Paul Robeson, black genealogy, and the public school curriculum on black history. For further information contact:

Black History Conference
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

NORTH CAROLINA ARCHIVES SEARCH FEE

On October 1, 1978, the North Carolina Archives instituted a \$2 search fee for each letter received from out of state. The fee must accompany the request and will be in addition to any cost that might be involved in copying a document. The Archives will continue its policy of responding to one question about one person in one letter.

WATER ALERT DETECTION DEVICE

Water Alert, a water detection device for libraries, archives, and other institutions, has a sensor that can be adjusted to detect water between 1/64 and 1/8 inch deep. It indicates water presence through a high-pitched alarm, a flashing light, or a telephone call. Water Alert is available from:

Dorlen Products
7424 W. Layton Ave.
Greenfield, Wisconsin
53220

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA NEWS

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of woman suffrage in the United States, four MARAC members mounted an exhibit entitled, "Women's Rights, Women's Roles." The exhibit, on display from May through October, was well-received and widely publicized. MARAC members involved were Lynn Aber, Joan Echtenkamp, Helen Troy, and Robin Wagner.

During the course of the year, the following publications by MARAC members appeared:

Edmund Berkeley, Jr., ed., Autographs and Manuscripts: A Collector's Manual (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978).

Douglas W. Tanner, Madison County Place Names, Virginia Place Name Society, Occasional Publication No. 21 (Charlottesville, Virginia: Virginia Place Name Society, 1978).

Michael F. Plunkett, review of American Literary Manuscripts: A Checklist of Holdings, 2nd ed., by J. Albert Robbins, in American Archivist, July 1978, pp. 333-334.

Helen M. Troy, "History of the University of Virginia, Including Listing of Interviews," Journal of the Richmond Oral History Association II/1 (Winter 1978) 23-32.

This fall, U.Va. was well represented at a number of conferences and seminars. In September, Lynn Aber, Edmund Berkeley, Jr., Janet Kern, Ann Southwell, Doug Tanner, and Robin Wagner attended a conference on the problems of managing papers of public officials sponsored by the Senate Historical Office. In October, Lynn Aber, Edmund Berkeley, Jr., Ann Southwell, Doug Tanner, and Helen Troy set off across the Smokies to Nashville to partake of the culture of the country music capital of the world, visit the Hermitage, and attend the SAA convention.

Janet Kern won the scholarship funded by the Colonial Dames of America and awarded by SAA to the National Archives Institute for the November session.

GUIDE TO PUERTO RICO MATERIALS

A guide to Puerto Rico related materials in U.S. Manuscript repositories is being compiled by Paquita Vivo. If you have any related collections, please provide the appropriate information to:

Paquito Vivo
927 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

NEWBERRY LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

The Newberry Library and the Chicago Historical Society have announced a series of workshops in Community History. Each session will consist of six days of study. Session dates are March 12-17, 1979, and April 23-28, 1979. For further information and applications contact:

Workshops in Community History
Newberry Library
60 West Walton
Chicago, Illinois 60610

(312) 943-9090

MARAC members Mike Plunkett and Helen Troy attended the first meeting of the Virginia Oral History Association, held in Charlottesville on November 18. Officers elected for the year were Barbara Vandergrift, president; Edmund Berkeley, Jr., vice president; and Jim Sweeney, secretary-treasurer.

Karen Paul left her job as Assistant to the University Archivist in July to take a position with the Suitland branch of NARS. She was replaced by Carolyn Beckham, who returned to us with her M.L.S. from the University of Kentucky.

Lynn Aber leaves her position as head of Technical Services in December for the wilds of Wisconsin. She has been accepted for the library science and archives programs offered by the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Ann Stauffenberg married George Southwell in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on June 10.

Mike Plunkett and wife, former MARAC member Ann Marie Harkins, are expecting a bambino in the spring.

In preparing the Griswold-Nevins-Perkins Collection (accession no. 7789) for micro-filming, Greg came upon a folder headed, "Tremain Goforth to Mrs. Thomas Perkins". Intrigued by the unusual name and the fact that "Tremain Goforth" was not among Mrs. Perkins' regular correspondents, Greg decided to read the letter to try to discover "Goforth's" relation to the Griswold, Nevins, or Perkins family. The letter was signed by a Henry Bernard, much to Greg's amazement. Apparently, the processor had read the complimentary close, "I remain your ob't sv't" as "Tremain Goforth". Moral: check your student processors.

SUITLAND FIRE UPDATE

A committee of six persons is investigating the disastrous December 7, 1978 fire at the National Archives' nitrate film storage vaults at the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. The probe is expected to last several weeks since 13 fire companies answered the call. 10 to 12 million feet of Universal Newsreels film -- "outtakes" -- footage not used in final releases but extremely valuable -- were lost forever. 3.4 million feet of film, 140 cubic feet of still photographs, and 60 cubic feet of aerial photographs were saved but in a damaged condition attributable to either water, smoke, or the fire itself. The fire struck 20 of 27 vaults.

Salvaged film is being brought in to the main Archives building for washing and drying in the laboratory. Salvaged film not yet in the Archives or in transit is kept in a 40-ton refrigerated truck at Suitland to guard against possible spontaneous combustion. Nitrate film is notoriously flammable due to its chemical instability. If sufficient funds are forthcoming, NARS hopes to institute a greatly accelerated program to copy the surviving film. When added to deposits not touched by the fire, this will amount to approximately 13.4 million feet of motion picture film, 30,000 still photographs, and 5,000 cubic feet of aerial films.

The Preservation Services Laboratory of the National Archives is investigating some of the physical qualities of nitrate film to try to shed some light on the fire. To test the hypothesis that nitrate film will self-ignite if it gets too hot, small chips of film have been put into an oven. For this size sample, at least, the hypothesis although true seems irrelevant to normal operating temperatures since the samples had to be raised to at least 390°F before ignition. Whether larger quantities or higher pressure (as might exist in a film can) would require a lower temperature for ignition remains to be tested. This testing will be conducted at military labs which are equipped to test explosives.

The SAA Newsletter received the following communication in response to Leonard Rapport's article on "Cloning."

Dear Editor:

It isn't necessary for Leonard Rapport to worry about the reaction of female archivists to the idea of cloning male archivists. The advantages for our 21st century sisters are considerable. The upgrading of the male IQ to the 82-92 level alone will provide them with much more intellectually stimulating colleagues than we now have. And since archivally these males will be the hewers of wood and drawers of water it is obvious that women will have to fill most of the creative and extraordinary positions in the profession. We can accept that.

I do urge that the committee to select the prototype for cloning be at least 50% female. And, since it is possible that some women archivists may marry or share a life with these clones, I suggest as part of the selection process a male beauty pageant. This should include a talent show; the prototypes talent might as well be cooking as pumping iron or playing basketball with the other clones.

Yours truly,

Holly Ginger Woodruff

STATIONERY SIZE

The Congressional Joint Committee on Printing has unanimously approved the recommendation that the Federal government adopt the 8½-x-11-inch stationery size. The action was the culmination of considerable study and reflects the wishes of the vast majority of Federal agencies. The new standard will become effective January 1, 1980, to allow existing stocks of the smaller 8-x-10½-inch stationery to be depleted.

WORD PROCESSING: A REAPPRAISAL

Is word processing worth the cost? During the past 20 years, word processing technology has promised significant improvements in records systems. Facing increasing workloads and limited personnel resources, managers have looked forward to the increased use of word processing with great hope. However, much of the equipment installed has not produced the benefits that had been expected.

Recent findings by NARS have led to a reassessment of the benefits of word processing -- both real and imagined. The conclusions are thought provoking: no appreciable savings can be attributed to word processing equipment for first-time (i.e., original) typing, and the potential for savings lies mainly with word processing's capability to rapidly "play back" unchanged lines.

The NARS findings are being prepared for government-wide distribution. Guidelines based on the findings, including a formula for making word processing feasibility decisions, are being developed for use in assessing the cost effectiveness of present word processing systems compared to conventional typing.

(from the NARS Records Management Newsletter)

CURATOR CONVICTED OF FORGERY

Thomas E. F. McNamara, former curator of the Robert Frost Collection at Plymouth State College, New Hampshire, was convicted of mail fraud involving the sale of forged works of American poets including Edna St. Vincent Millay, Ogden Nash, and Walt Whitman. The forged holographs, manuscripts, and artifacts for as much as \$800. McNamara has been sentenced to one year in Federal prison.

KISSINGER LOSES APPEAL

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has ruled that transcripts of Henry Kissinger's telephone conversations as secretary of state belong to the public, not to Kissinger. This affirms a U.S. District Court decision that they are Federal records and are subject to public access under the Freedom of Information Act. While ruling against Kissinger on his State Department materials, the Court of Appeals agreed with the District Court that Kissinger's telephone notes during his five years as White House adviser to President Nixon were not subject to public access because of his status as a confidential presidential assistant. Meanwhile, Kissinger has appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

ARCHIVAL THEFT LEGISLATION

California recently joined six other states (including Virginia) in passing legislation protecting archives and libraries against theft. California's statute enables archival employees to more easily detain persons suspected of attempting to steal library materials. The terms "book or other library materials" include any book, plate, picture, photograph, engraving, painting, drawing, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, broadside, manuscript, document, letter, public record, microfilm, sound recording, audio-visual material in any format, magnetic or other tape, electronic data processing record, artifact, or other documentary, written or printed material regardless of physical form or characteristics, or any part thereof, belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of a library facility.

California's statute defines "library facility" as any public library, any library of an educational institution, historical or eleemosynary institution, organization, or society; any museum, any repository of public

records. Any library facility may post at its entrance and exit a conspicuous sign indicating any person using the facility can be retained for a reasonable period to prevent theft. The bill provides a minimum mandatory fine of \$50 upon conviction.

Virginia's legislation, passed in 1975 largely through the efforts of the University of Virginia Library is below.

The Society of California Archivists played a major role in securing its legislation by writing to state legislators, by providing examples of similar legislation from other states, and by joining with other associations in endorsing the legislation (and its supporters). With archival theft amounting to hundreds of thousands -- perhaps millions -- of dollars annually, MARAC members should be working to enact archival theft legislation to combat this growing problem. It is a problem we cannot ignore. What's the status of legislation in your state?

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 42.1-72 and 42.1-73 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 42.1-73.1 and 42.1-74.1 as follows:

§ 42.1-72. Injuring or destroying books and other property of libraries. --Any person who willfully, maliciously or wantonly writes upon, injures, defaces, tears, cuts, mutilates, or destroys any book or other library property belonging to or in the custody of any public, county or regional library, the State Library, other repository of public records, museums or any library or collection belonging to or in the custody of any educational, eleemosynary, benevolent, hereditary, historical library or patriotic institution, organization or society, shall be guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor.

§ 42.1-73. Concealment of book or other property while on premises of library; removal of book or other property from library. --Whoever, without authority, with the intention of converting to his own or another's use, willfully conceals a book or other library property, while still on the premises of such library, or willfully or without authority removes any book or other property from any of the above libraries or collections shall be deemed guilty of larceny thereof, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided by law. Proof of the willful concealment of such book or other library property while still on the premises of such library shall be prima facie evidence of intent to

commit larceny thereof.

§ 42.1-73.1 Exemption from liability for arrest of suspected person. --A library or agent or employee of the library causing the arrest of any person pursuant to the provisions of § 42.1-73, shall not be held civilly liable for unlawful detention, slander, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, false arrest, or assault and battery of the person so arrested, whether such arrest takes place on the premises of the library or after close pursuit from such premises by such agent or employee; provided that, in causing the arrest of such person, the library or agent or employee of the library had at the time of such arrest probable cause to believe that the person committed willful concealment of books or other library property.

§ 42.1-74.1 "Book or other library property" defined. The terms "book or other library property" as used in this chapter shall include any book, plate, picture, photograph, engraving, painting, drawing, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, broadside, manuscript, document, letter, public record, microform, sound recording, audiovisual materials in any format, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or other documentary, written, or printed material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of any library, museum, repository of public or other records institution as specified in § 42.1-72.

NHPRC INVITES GRANT PROPOSALS

NHPRC has approved a list of historical records proposals invited during 1979. It includes the type of projects which the Commission wishes to particularly encourage because of the lack of applications in these areas of need:

Conservation

The development of national, regional, statewide, or intra-state conservation programs providing training, consulting, and other services for the conservation of historical records.

Appraisal

The development of guidelines for appraisal of the archival value of records, especially for the records of types of institutions which play a major continuing role in American life. The development of general schedules is particularly encouraged.

Institutional Models

The development of archival programs, especially those linked to ongoing records management programs, which may serve as models for similar institutions, particularly the following types: hospitals, religious bodies; local governments; social service, voluntary, trade, labor, business, professional, cultural, and nonprofit organizations. Projects which demonstrate substantial interest by national, regional, or other levels above the custodial level are strongly encouraged, so that the model programs may be endorsed and made known to members with similar needs.

Training

Workshops, manuals, consultation, and other approaches directed toward custodians of records of archival value who are not themselves archivists. This includes programs directed at upper level administrators of organizations which create or hold records of archival value as well as those directly in charge of the records.

Repository Cooperation

Cooperative programs among repositories in a geographic area, special subject field, or in similar institutional settings. Such projects might be designed to share information; provide or obtain special training; develop state-of-the-art methods; establish working agreements or more formal relationships; adopt cooperative acquisition policies; undertake joint surveys; or other cooperative approaches which are more effective than is possible by repositories acting individually.

Note: In these and in other types of projects supported by the records program, the NHPRC encourages increased involvement by national, regional and state professional organizations, particularly archival groups. This may include direct administration of a project or indirect involvement through sponsorship, guidance, evaluation, or endorsement for a project administered by an institution or institutions working with the professional organization.

NHPRC GRANTS

NHPRC awarded \$1,347,713 in Federal grants for preservation, publication, and use of American historical records at its October meeting. The following grants were made to institutions in the MARAC area:

- New York: Town of Islip, \$1,365 for microfilming of selected town records from 1721 to 1950.
Village of Medina, \$750 in support of the microfilming of nineteenth and early twentieth century minutes of the village council.
The YIVO Institute, New York, \$87,675 to survey, collect, and process the records of the Landsmanshaftn organizations in the New York City area. The Landsmanshaftn are mutual aid societies formed by Jewish immigrants and organized largely around the city or town (mostly European) of origin of the members.
Queens College, City University of New York, Flushing, \$24,401 for "The Papers of Robert Morris."
Cornell University, Ithaca, \$58,898 for "Lafayette in the Age of the American Revolution."
Columbia University Press, New York, \$10,000 for volume 26 of the "Papers of Alexander Hamilton."
New Jersey: Princeton University, \$99,152 for "The Papers of Thomas Jefferson."
\$20,000 for volumes 31 and 32 of "The Papers of Woodrow Wilson."
Pennsylvania: Old Christ Church, Philadelphia, \$15,205 (partial matching) to inventory, arrange, and microfilm early church archives and to develop an ongoing archival program. The microfilm project is a cooperative program with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, \$41,639 for "The Papers of Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben."
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, \$25,416 for "The Papers of Henry Bouquet."
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, endorsement of the "Papers of William Penn."
Maryland: Baltimore Bureau of Records Management, \$24,624 to arrange and describe the records of the mayor and the city council of Baltimore from 1797-1971, and to identify conservation needs for these records.
The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, \$1,800 for consultation for the development of programs for conservation, arrangement, and description of the archival and manuscript holdings of the Institute relating to musical and cultural activities.
Delaware: Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dover, \$1,285 supplemental grant for preparation of a general guide to Delaware public records.
District of Columbia: Supreme Court Historical Society, \$35,000 for "The Documentary History of the Supreme Court."
Smithsonian Institution, \$16,433 for "The Papers of Joseph Henry."
\$30,000 for "The Papers of John Harrington" (microform).
Virginia: University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, \$9,618 for volume 12 of "The Papers of James Madison."

SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR ADDITIONAL NEA
AND NEH FUNDING

Representative Fred Richmond of New York, who played a major role in saving Carnegie Hall, is sponsoring the Arts and Education Bill, HR 1042. This proposed legislation provides a checkoff block on the 1040 Federal Tax forms whereby the taxpayer may make a tax deductible contribution to the National Endowment for the Arts and/or the National Endowment for the Humanities. These monies will be used only for funding Endowment programs -- not administrative costs -- and will supplement Congressional appropriations.

HR 1042 provides a simple, convenient means for the willing small donor to contribute to the arts. It requires no new Federal agency, no added national budget drain, no increased taxes, and minimal Federal paperwork. Two recent Lou Harris polls indicated that most of the 80 million taxpayers are willing to make such contributions: 64% would contribute \$5, 47% up to \$25, and 36% up to \$50 and more. This would generate an additional \$1.7 billion.

The following MARAC area congressmen are co-sponsoring HR 1042:

New York:	Joseph Addabbo	Mario Biaggi
	Jonathan Bingham	Bruce Caputo
	Thomas Downey	Hamilton Fish
	Benjamin Gilman	Bill Green
	James Hanley	Frank Horton
	John LaFalce	Stanley Lundine
	Matthew McHugh	Donald Mitchell
	John Murphy	Henry Nowak
	Richard Ottinger	Charles Rangel
	Benjamin Rosenthal	James Scheuer
	Stephen Solarz	Samuel Stratton
	Theodore Weiss	Leo Zeferetti

New Jersey:	Millicent Fenwick	James Florio
	Harold Hollenbeck	James Howard
	William Hughes	Joseph LeFante
	Andrew Maguire	Helen Meyner
	Matthew Rinaldo	Peter Rodino
	Robert Roe	Frank Thompson

AD HOC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT

In the spring of 1977 it became clear that MARAC faced some problems with the routine of dues solicitation, mailing label production, dues collection and the mailing of newsletters as well as other mail materials.

An ad hoc committee (called a membership committee) was appointed and over the past year and a half certain routines were established which seem likely to resolve the problems as they were finally identified.

Below I list the routines as they finally shaped up:

1. Dues solicitations to be sent out in the fall of each year by the secretary. New membership forms have been designed which indicate necessary information and place the responsibility upon the member for indicating address changes.
2. Dues to be remitted to the secretary who is thus enabled to maintain up-to-date membership lists before sending money to the treasurer.
3. The decision was made to computerize mailing labels professionally under the supervision of the secretary. Mailing labels which will be called for are:

Pennsylvania:	Robert Edgar	Joseph Ammerman
	Allen Ertel	Joshua Eilberg
	Peter Kostmayer	Daniel Flood
	Austin Murphy	Raymond Lederer
	Robert Nix	Michael Myers
	Douglas Walgren	Fred Rooney
		Gus Yatron

Maryland:	Barbara Mikulski	Parren Mitchell
	Gladys Noon Spellman	
	Newton Steers	

Virginia: Herbert Harris

West Virginia: Nick Raball

MARAC members can assist in the national efforts to support this legislation by:

- writing your congressman and encouraging him/her to support, to co-sponsor, and to vote for the bill
- by providing the names and addresses of other potential supporters
- by encouraging local media to highlight and support the bill
- by organizing a local committee to support the bill

Are you willing to join Henry Fonda, Joan Mondale, Leonard Bernstein, and Mary Martin as an active supporter of HR 1042? If you are, write your congressman on personal stationery, with your name and address clearly identifiable. Mention HR 1042 specifically. Confine your letter to this single issue. Check with your supervisor before attempting to use official stationery. This is an apple pie and mom bill that will cost the Federal government nothing. It can do wonders to persuade Congress to stimulate the arts in America, and will have good side effects for the archival profession in the future.

two conference mailings (to be first class)
four newsletters (mailed centrally on permit)
one directory (to be mailed with newsletter)

4. Since the fiscal year is considered to be October to October, it was agreed that any completely new membership which was paid between July 1-September 31, would be considered as running from October through the following September.

We had thought briefly that a corresponding secretary might be added to MARAC officers to handle such details as "Thank you" letters after a conference or to mail conference notices to other regional groups and/or assorted associations and their journals. However, this was not properly in the province of this committee.

I think that the routine as presently organized should eliminate the difficulties we pin-pointed and the Ad Hoc Membership Committee can be discharged.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Sternfeld

August 1978

"HINTS FROM HELOISE"

Ellen Hassig, the West Virginia State Representative, forwards this recent "Hints From Heloise" column. Responding to a question about what to do with old newspaper clippings that turn yellow, Heloise replied:

There are two ways you might try to preserve those momentos from oblivion. One is to spray them with hair spray (hair spray!) lightly three or four times about 30 seconds apart while the clippings are lying on a flat surface. If they have already yellowed, soak them for ten or fifteen minutes, one at a time, in a weak solution of bleach and water. Rinse carefully with clean water and slap them on your refrigerator door to dry. Good luck!"

Mid-Atlantic archivists (and Paul Mucci as well) are advised that in order to take advantage of this procedure, they first have to obtain a refrigerator for their archives.

WINTERTHUR PORTFOLIO EXPANDED

Winterthur Portfolio will be published in an expanded format and on a quarterly basis for Winterthur Museum by the University of Chicago Press beginning in February 1979. The periodical will also be subtitled A Journal of American Material Culture to better reflect its emphasis on interpretation of the American past through the products of artists and artisans. For further information contact:

Orlie Higgins
University of Chicago Press
11030 Langley Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission has available a Book and Publication List for 1978. It includes political history, aids to research, military history, Indians, microfilm and microfilm guides, social and economic history, reprints, miscellaneous publications and cooperative works. The list is available from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

BOOK REVIEWS by Mary Boccaccio

COPYRIGHT PAMPHLETS

The Library of Congress has prepared several free pamphlets relating to the recent changes in the copyright law:

Highlights of the New Copyright Law (Circular R 99)
Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators
and Librarians (Circular R 21)
Copyright Statute
Fair Use of Copyrighted Works (in preparation)
Copyright of Pictorial Work (in preparation)
Copyright of Computer Programs (in preparation)

These pamphlets are available free from:

Copyright Office
Copyright Office
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20559

Core Mission & Minimum Standards for University Archives in the University of Wisconsin System. 1978

The Wisconsin system has an Archives Council which was informally established in 1976 to consider policy of concern to each of the participating institutions to exchange professional expertise and experience and to seek cooperative solutions to mutual problems. A Committee of Minimum Standards was appointed to develop a statement of the core mission, function, duties, responsibilities, services, personnel needs and facilities and equipment requirements of a University Archive. The ensuing statement is a strongly developed document which clearly defines the work of the University Archives. Such a statement would be useful for many University Archives since it would encourage each Archivist to think through a consistent definition of goals or mission and the elements necessary to the achievement of that mission.

Glimpses Into Our Lives, Memories of Harrisburg's Black Senior Citizens, ed. Amelia Davis et al
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1978

This booklet contains some oral history transcriptions of some of the members of the Uptown Senior Citizens Center in Harrisburg. The people interviewed were asked about their parents, grandparents and great grandparents; how they earned a living, why they left the South, what they encountered in the North, and so on. Interviews were left as unstructured as possible but were trimmed to reduce repetition. The booklet was intended as a memoir for the Center, but its themes are broad.

Guide to Ethnic Museums, Libraries and Archives in the United States. Lubonry R. Wynar and Lois Buttlar. Program for the Study of Ethnic Publications, School of Library Science, Kent State University, 1978. \$9.50

This directory is the result of a survey to identify major ethnic museums, libraries and archives in terms of their objectives, collections and activities. It defines its interest as those organizations which are sponsored by individual ethnic groups. It also includes a section on major research oriented centers not covered under the terms of definition but which specialize in various aspects of ethnicity. It also lists the kinds of collections which are excluded.

Organizations are listed alphabetically by ethnic group with many cross references. Entries include name, type of institution, address, telephone, sponsoring organization, personnel, date founded, scope, staff, access, admission, publications, and collection description and comments.

continued from page 1

These new duties will emphasize our concern for state and local issues. The Norfolk meeting in May seems to be the best place to begin. At the general business meeting on Saturday morning, I will present to you specific recommendations which will comprise such an expanded role your elected officials can assume. They will harmonize with and complement MARAC's basic organizational structure while at the same time remaining within the confines of the constitution.

Immediately following the general business meeting and as a first step, each State Representative on the Steering Committee has agreed to organize and chair a state caucus. Though within the general framework of our regional organization, the caucus sessions will give individual members a chance to be heard. They will be free to voice concerns about local matters and to take action under MARAC's umbrella. I regard the organization of state caucuses as significant. It will have a profound effect on MARAC's future.

My term of office expires at Norfolk. Other matters discussed at Baltimore I leave to my successor.

To those of you who supported the "Whither MARAC?" sessions, I thank you!

DIRECTORY ISSUED

The NHPRC has published a Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States. Produced completely by electronic data processing techniques, the volume is a revised edition of the Hamer Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States of 1961. Philip Hamer, first executive director of the commission, listed 1,300 repositories in his publication. The commission's revision lists 3,250 and will be sold through the NARS Publications Sales Branch. Four-thousand copies have been printed; the cost is \$25 per copy. NHPRC intends to update the work periodically, a process which will be greatly simplified through computerization.

FORD MUSEUM UPDATE

The city of Grand Rapids has purchased all but two of the buildings it needs to obtain a clear site for the projected Gerald R. Ford Museum. Demolition of the site is expected to be finished by spring, after which the Ford Commemorative Committee will take charge of construction work.

RELIGIOUS ARCHIVISTS: ARISE!

Martha Aycock is asking all religious archivists to send in ideas for the Norfolk session, scheduled for Saturday morning, May 19. She would also like someone to volunteer to set up a display for the exhibits area. Martha can be reached at: Union Theological Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, Virginia 23227. (804) 355-0671.

The Program Committee has scheduled time for religious archivists to get together after their Saturday morning session to trade additional ideas, organize, whatever. This will continue into lunch. Like the Oral History group, religious archivists should contact Jim Sweeney or Jodi Kostl if they care to set up a formal luncheon meeting in this time slot.

ANOTHER "WHITHER MARAC?" SESSION AT NORFOLK

The Program Committee has scheduled a follow-up session at Norfolk for those who have further ideas, or who missed the original slate of sessions at the Baltimore meeting. It will be on Friday afternoon, May 18. Tentative arrangements will include as our guest Toby Fishbein, President of the Iowa group, and a council member of MAC. In light of our projected state caucus sessions on Saturday morning, what she has to say will be important, since the Iowa state group, though completely independent of MAC, cooperates with its corresponding regional. As at Baltimore, discussions from the floor will provide stimulating exchange. Make it a point to attend.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RECORDS

The second World Conference on Records will be held August 12-15, 1980, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The conference theme will be "Preserving Our Heritage." Aimed at historians, genealogists, sociologists, demographers, and archivists, it will offer more than 200 seminars on family history and genealogy. The conference will also offer many cultural events and tours. For further information contact:

The World Conference on Records
Genealogical Society of Utah
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

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Martha Slotten
Secretary, MARAC
Dickinson College Library
Carlisle, PA 17012

OBITUARY

Atlantic City.-----The Marlborough-Blenheim, over 71 years old, loudly passed away at 10:18AM 9 November 1978 at its home on the Boardwalk. Death came suddenly following a massive dose of nitroglycerin administered as a result of casino fever which has infected the whole town. It had, however, suffered for some time from economic ills.

As a brainchild of Thomas A. Edison the dowager was both classic and classy and will be fondly remembered by an animated assembly of archivists. It is survived by its records, scrapbooks, and abstracted artifacts. Contributions to its fate are said to be in the name of progress.

Frederick M. Cramer

Editor's note: MARAC members will remember the Marlborough-Blenheim as the site of our May 1977 Spring meeting. Rest in Peace.

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